

<b>Position title:</b>	Practicum Student, Counselling	<b>Posting date:</b>	Yearly
<b>Manager contact information:</b>	Alvaro Luna / Louis Lin <a href="mailto:alvaro@checkhimout.ca">alvaro@checkhimout.ca</a> <a href="mailto:louis@checkhimout.ca">louis@checkhimout.ca</a>	<b>Posting closing date:</b>	Position has no closing date Click here to enter a date.
<b>Location:</b>	Various locations	<b>Position duration:</b>	Flexible
<b>Position type:</b>	Direct client service	<b>Service area:</b>	Mental Health

#### Statement of practicum value:

At Health Initiative for Men (HIM), students play an essential role in bringing our mission and vision to life. We value students for their roles as learners, knowledge bearers, and future leaders. Practicum students have the opportunity to achieve advanced levels of professional skill, personal growth, and social connection by working directly with members of the community of queer men and gender diverse people (GBQ,T2SNB+). At HIM, we value the unique gifts as well as the personal needs and diversity of our students. As we situate ourselves to be a centre for excellence in queer men and gender diverse people’s mental health, we embrace possibilities for knowledge exchange and interactive, dynamic growth.

#### Purpose of the position:

Counselling practicum students at HIM have the chance to contribute to an innovative organization dedicated to strengthening the mental, emotional, and psychological health and well-being of queer men and gender diverse people in our community. They have access to specialized training, hands-on experience in community mental health, and on-going involvement in our mental health programming and health centres. Practicum counsellors work in a clinical setting to provide affirmative, low barrier, collaborative, and client-centered support to gay, bi, queer, trans, men; as well as non-binary, two-spirit, and other gender diverse people. They work on a team with other counsellors, an experienced clinical supervisor, mental health specialists (site supervisors), and the HIM staff in order to support the conduction of an integrated health programming for this population.

HIM Practicum students are engaged in the HIM mental health programming as both learners and helpers. Successful practicum applicants will gain advanced, direct practice skills in conceptualizing and treating clients’ suffering while acknowledging oppressive structural forces related to queer men and gender diverse people’s health, and in facilitating positive micro-, meso- and macro-level change.

#### Other requisite considerations

The Mental health committee at HIM is highly selective about the students that become engaged at a practicum level. The reasoning behind this is because HIM is an organization created for queer men, by queer men – and this has become a fundamental part of how we have gained the trust of our communities. For this reason, when choosing a practicum student, we use the following considerations as guidelines:

- Counselling practicum students can demonstrate significant knowledge, understanding and/or experience in the issues that are relevant to GBQ,T2SNB+ people.
- Counselling practicum students have an understanding of the impacts of HIV (medical and legal), and suicide on communities of GBQ,T2SNB+ people.
- Counselling practicum students have a grounded understanding of gender diversity and affirmation, queer theory, coming out, queer/trans/gay specific language, intersectionality, minority stress, suicide prevention, health equity and other topics relevant to the work with this population.

Responsibilities and duties	
<p><b>Clinical Duties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide affirming, respectful, and effective counselling on a range of issues in accordance with their specific training/experience; and evidence-based practices in mental health.</li> <li>• Maintain counselling records accurately and diligently.</li> <li>• Observe and apply HIM mental health practices, procedures, policies, and protocols to practice ethically and maintain confidentiality.</li> <li>• Respect and adhere to the brief model of intervention that HIM offers through its counselling program (8-10 sessions).</li> <li>• Support clients with appropriate referrals and advocacy.</li> <li>• Group co-facilitation, coordination, planning, and, if needed, design.</li> <li>• Conduction and completion of intake and assessment interviews for the HIM counselling program.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other duties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain a thorough understanding of HIM's objectives, programs and services.</li> <li>• Ensure clients feel welcome and have the best counselling experience possible.</li> <li>• Attend monthly group supervision.</li> <li>• Seek individual clinical supervision with the HIM clinical supervisor diligently to ensure best quality practice.</li> <li>• Engage in administrative/coordination work pertaining to their clinical duties (scheduling sessions, communicate with applicants and clients, prepare sessions (individual and group), amongst others.</li> </ul>

Qualifications and experience	
Required qualifications	Experience/background
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful completion of comprehensive examination, or other 'safe to work' qualification from university.</li> <li>• Enrollment in a graduate-level university degree program in counselling/psychology/social work or related area; or having graduated from a similar program.</li> <li>• Student registration with a related professional body (recommended).</li> <li>• Up-to-date professional liability insurance (can be through school).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functional and current knowledge of queer and gender diverse people's health and issues. This may include: Sexual, social, physical and mental health.</li> <li>• Basic computer proficiency is important.</li> <li>• Proficiency in other languages is considered an asset.</li> </ul>

Commitment expected
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hours of work: Our Health Centres operate primarily between 4:00-9:00 Monday to Friday. Hours of work can be flexible. Practicum Students are expected to be available for duties related to their practicum on their work days/schedules.</li> <li>• We expect that HIM practicum counsellors see at least one client for one session per week. We are flexible about the time and day, but preference will be given to applicants who can commit at least two days of their weeks to see clients.</li> <li>• We strongly prefer applicants who can commit for 6 months to one year.</li> </ul>

Training	
Training provided by HIM	Other training you might bring:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HIM institute (one time)</li><li>• Site specific orientation and training</li><li>• HIM Professionals Group (monthly)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specific counselling/psychology qualification or certification (E.g. narrative level 1 etc...)</li><li>• Training in queer competency</li></ul> |
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#### Other details

- Clinical Supervision: Clinical supervision and site supervision are available to students. Each student is permitted 15 minutes of supervision per client, per week. This is negotiable with the HIM site supervisor.
- HIM has a clinical supervisor in partnership with VCH (Vancouver Coastal Health). If a student is interested in another clinical supervisor based on a specific approach, the request needs to be made to the program specialist and can be reviewed. However, this is not guaranteed to be approved.
- Clients at HIM are eligible for 8-10 sessions, so comfort with working within a brief therapy model and/or, guiding the session in accordance to limited sessions is expected.
- There is capacity for extra work related to psycho-education, peer consultation, group facilitation, intake, program development, and other duties.